

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal  
December 29, 1940



## Vacation Means Play At John Tarleton Home

Christmas vacation means more than a release from classrooms to the boys and girls at John Tarleton Institute, for this week their release from chores gave them an opportunity to spend their time as they pleased.

As far as possible they have been able to do as they wished, and the balmy days found the boys playing football and baseball and the girls sewing and playing indoors.

Miss Leah Fletcher, superintendent of the home for the past 27 years, saw to it that they were well supplied with nuts, candies and fruits and that most of the 220 children at the home got what they asked for from Santa.

The home, supported by Knox County, is for dependent needy children, and is in no way a penal institution. Boys and girls are sent there by the Juvenile Court which investigates homes and recommends children for the home.

The Institute has its own school system, with five teachers and nine grades. Graduates of the ninth grade attend the city high schools, and there are 14 of them in attendance at present. Since 1913, when Miss Fletcher became superintendent, 74 students have graduated from Knoxville High and five have graduated from colleges and universities.

There are both Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops at the Institute. For the boys the Optimist Club sponsors the Junior Optimist and the Brownie Optimist Clubs, and the Opti-Mrs. Club sponsors for the girls an Opti-Misses Club.



# Lawyers Endorse Fay Bentley; Opposition to Her Continues

Charges that Judge Fay Bentley of the Juvenile Court is "arbitrary" and "utterly lacks the judicial temperament" enlivened the two-hour session of the Washington Bar Association last Friday night which finally adopted a motion endorsing the juvenile court judge for another term and directed that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the President and the attorney-general.

"But the vote was by no means unanimous," said Thurman L. Dodson, who with Richard R. Atkinson led the opposition to further service of the juvenile court jurist, when the former commented Monday on Friday's vote. Mr. Dodson further declared his intention to oppose the reappointment of Judge Bentley in Congress if President Roosevelt renames her.

Miss Bentley, whose term of office is just expiring, was appointed in 1934 after a close contest in which her support by Mrs. Roosevelt gave her a slight edge over other aspirants, including Judge Katherine Sellers, whom she succeeded on the bench.

The fact that Judge Bentley is a protege of the First Lady is considered in some circles to make her reappointment by the President "virtually certain." The jurist, however, has made many enemies during her six-year term of office.

A group of white women have recently sent resolutions to Mrs. Roosevelt opposing Judge Bentley's continuance in office.

Prior to her service in the juvenile court, Judge Bentley was director of the Department of School Attendance and Work Permits of the public schools. She was succeeded in that office by Mrs. Seldon, who is now a candidate for appointment to the juvenile court judgeship.

The strongest plea for retaining Judge Bentley was made by James E. Cobb and George E. C. Hayes, who cited the large number of colored case workers and court attendants employed in the juvenile court, a larger number than in any other court.

It is rumored that Mrs. Seldon has threatened "to clean out" the colored employees if she takes the bench. This is said to have been the factor which resulted in the majority vote to endorse Judge Fay Bentley for reappointment.

## vice Among School Children

"Which Way for Youth?" an article in the current issue of Community Service by Hugo W. Wolter, director of the Washington Council of Social Agencies, begins with three salient questions which vitally concern the city in general and the Negro in particular:

"Is recreation the answer to delinquency?"

"Why should we be subject to such a vast amount of crime?"

"What are private agencies doing?"

Then follow three or four paragraphs describing vicious practices of school children which "an investigator, after three years of quiet work," is supposed to have revealed.

Soon after publication of the article last week Wolter and the "investigator" were besieged with demands for evidence. The narcotics and vice squads of the police department which read into the sweeping charges an indictment of their efficiency, were joined by incensed school officials and civic workers. Neither Wolter nor Coleman, who made the "study," has substantiated any of the charges. It is not probable that they will. Wolter, however, has pledged himself to correct the implication that crime exists only in the colored community. Those who have exacted the promise have rendered a service to the race which it has the right to expect from its leaders.

The community will await Mr. Wolter's statement with considerable interest. With its publication, however, the matter should not end.

The policy of making such charges without supporting evidence is not only bad, but dangerous. Moreover, it violates the very purpose of the Washington Council of Social Agencies, which, through its 91 federated civic, philanthropic and social agencies, is intended to be an instrument for achieving "a well-planned and well-organized community program of social services."

Hugo Wolter is a newcomer to Washington. In four months he could have little first-hand information about the city, and less about its colored citizens. In the conference with the school executives and civic leaders called by the First Assistant Superintendent, Wolter learned some things which he is not likely to forget soon. As he pursues his work in the District the lesson should stand him in good stead. Because his motive which is reflected in the greater part of the article is high, the incident may be productive of much good. If Mr. Wolter is sincere, he must be glad to know that the support of an intelligent community is his as long as his attack is untainted with prejudice.

The youth of the city and of the nation is "subject to a vast amount of crime." Responsible colored people do not condone local conditions. They often wonder what both private and public recreational agencies are doing to meet colored youth's need for more extensive recreational facilities.

One potent solution to this problem lies in the need of improved economic conditions among Negroes. As long as both city and Federal governments deny the Negro the opportunity for employment at a living wage which is extended to other elements of the American population, hundreds of colored children will go on living "with two other families in the same room," and vice will be generally more prevalent than it should be if the "American way" is to be anything more than an apt phrase.

## There is Another

As if to answer our editorial, "Is There No Other?" published two weeks ago, the candidacy of Mrs. Augusta Spaulding for the Juvenile Court judgeship has just been announced. *Tribune 3-30-40*

Her nomination by those who are supporting, however, is neither an afterthought nor a by-product of the Bentley-Seldon race in which neither contender has the wholehearted support of any organized colored citizens group. Weeks before the expiration of Judge Bentley's term of office on February 23, friends of Mrs. Spaulding urged her to become a candidate to succeed the incumbent. But Mrs. Spaulding was employed as clerk in the Juvenile Court from 1934-37. To file her candidacy for the position held by Judge Bentley prior to the expiration of her term of office somehow or other just did not fit into the Spaulding code of ethics. So the most that her friends could do was to exact a promise that she would become a candidate if Judge Bentley was not reappointed at the expiration of her first six-year term of office. Accordingly she has become a candidate.

Since opposition to Mrs. Sheldon continues, and Judge Bentley's reappointment is generally regarded as the less of two evils, choice of Mrs. Spaulding might be especially fortunate for the colored population of the city. To begin with Augusta Spaulding was born in Oakland, California forty-nine years ago. She holds the Bachelor's and Master's degrees of the University of California and did post-graduate work there in Greek law in the field of family relations. Mrs. Spaulding completed her work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1931 at George Washington University where she led a class of ninety-two. She is a member of the bar of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia and of the Court of Appeals in the same jurisdiction. In 1936, she was



admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. From 1937-1939 she engaged in the general practice of law here and at present is a review attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.

As a clerk in the Juvenile Court she became familiar with the set-up and procedures of that court as well as with the District agencies connected with it. While there she specialized in preparing bastardy cases and made a comparative study of bastardy as a preliminary step to a new law for the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Spaulding has taught in the public schools of Oakland and Washington. She is the mother of a fourteen-year-old boy and wife of a law professor at George Washington University.

Nothing in her experience suggests a lack of the judicial temperament and all who know her declare race prejudice is not a part of her. That she has lived ten years in Washington and remained immune to the virus of prejudice which is nurtured and thrives here is her greatest commendation for the juvenile court judgeship.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union  
March 8, 1940

## Negro Girls' Home Planned

### Endorsement Is Voted By Social Agencies Group.

Unanimously endorsement of a project to secure funds for a Parental Home for Delinquent Negro Girls was voted yesterday after considerable discussion by the child care committee of the Council of Social Agencies, meeting in the Seminole hotel, Charles E. Bennett, chairman, presided.

It was suggested that the home be built on the same plot of land on which the Negro Boys' Home is located at 1345 Jessie Street, in order that no land will have to be purchased and that the work with the boys and girls can be co-ordinated in one location.

Present at the meeting were: Mrs. Everett B. Leshner, president of the Religious Council of Jacksonville Women; James C. Lanier, Mrs. Worth W. Reid, Mrs. Alex Wachtel, Mrs. Mason Hunt, Mrs. Lucy Knox McGee, Mrs. George V. Salzer Sr., Miss Martha duPree.

Miss Sarah Williams, Marcus C. Fagg, Sherwood H. Smith, Mrs. Jennie M. James, Judge Walter S. Criswell, Dodd Pace, Mrs. Walter S. Criswell, Eartha M. M. White, Joe James Jr., W. H. Lee and D. W. Perkins.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union  
April 7, 1940

## Landon High PTA Approves Project At April Meeting

A part in activities of county-wide interest, together with approval of a move to provide a home for delinquent negro girls, were features of the April meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association, at which Miss Martha A. Sproull was a guest speaker, last week at Landon High School.

The membership was urged by Mrs. B. W. Wright, president, to attend a school of instruction opening at 9:30 A. M. on Monday, April 15, at the Union Congregational Church. It will be conducted by Mrs. Walter H. Buhlig, field worker. Reservations should be made by Friday, April 12, according to Mrs. H. B. Warth, publicity chairman.

Attention was also called to lec-

tures to be delivered by Dean Ray V. Sowers of Florida Southern College at Robert E. Lee High School on Wednesday night, April 17, and Kirby-Smith on April 18. The next meeting of the County Council was announced for May 7 with officers subject to election.

Landon members were also asked to hear Mrs. Burgman, president of the University Women, on judging of programs for all children. The secretary was instructed to write a letter approving the haven for delinquent negro girls.

Miss Sproull gave an interesting and edifying talk on "Building the Home". The Landon Girls Ensemble, directed by Miss Gladys Leavitt, were enjoyed in two selections. Mrs. Herbert Meyerson, program chairman, introduced the guest speaker.

Mrs. Albert T. Atwater expressed appreciation to those who aided in making the Spring card party a pronounced social and financial success. Mrs. I. Roy Stelts, board member, reported on the recent County Council meeting. A request for co-operation in "clean-up" week April 8 to 20, from the Junior Chamber of Commerce, was received.

The meeting opened with a prayer and a pledge to the flag. The attendance prize for April was awarded Mrs. Lapeyre's room. At the close of the session Mrs. J. T. Sofge and her committee served tasty refreshments.



## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Dothan is becoming increasingly conscious of the acuteness of its housing facilities for low income groups and will shortly see a mass meeting called to discuss the desirability of doing something about it. Inspiration for this new interest in housing comes from A. D. Ussery, president of the Dothan Chamber of Commerce, and resulted in the appointment of a committee to investigate the possibilities of relieving the situation through the United States Housing Authority. At the proposed mass meeting a full discussion of Dothan's housing should develop, and from these discussions city commissioners will attempt to determine if the need is sufficiently great to justify further pursual.

While there are many benefits which accrue to a well housed city, one of the greatest is the reduction in juvenile delinquency which seems to follow close on the heels of slum clearance. The following report by the United States Housing Authority is both timely and enlightening in view of the interest already shown in Dothan:

"While the juvenile delinquency rate in the slums of America is two to three times as high as in the better housed neighborhoods, it was virtually zero in 1939 among the 40,000 children of 25,000 low-income families removed from sub-standard homes by the United States Housing Authority slum clearance and low-rent housing program:

"Traffic accidents and police calls also were notable because of their absence.

"Declaring this record convincing proof that slum clearance pays dividends in human as well as economic values, USHA Administrator Nathan Straus pointed out that freedom from juvenile delinquency and crime in general, as well as from traffic mishaps, has marked the operation of the 61 low-rent housing

projects that have been tenanted in the USHA program.

"In Miami, Fla., the absence of juvenile delinquency in the 'Liberty Square' project, which houses 243 Negro families, was commented upon recently by Judge W. H. Berkham of the Miami Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. After a thorough check of his records, Judge Berkham said that not a single case of juvenile delinquency has reached his court from the 'Liberty Square' project, which has been tenanted approximately three years. During that period, Judge Berkham said, Negro delinquency cases have continued to be heavy from other sections of Miami.

"In one Chicago slum area, one out of every four boys between the ages of 10 and 17 passed through the juvenile court in one year. Philadelphia with 25.1 per cent of its juvenile population in congested districts has 46 per cent of its juvenile delinquency in those areas.

"The delinquency rate in the slums of Hartford, Conn., was found to be twice as high as in the rest of the city, and in Cleveland, Ohio, the rate was three times as high.

"Birmingham, Ala., Denver, Col., and Seattle, Wash., with approximately one-tenth of their juvenile population in slum areas record 25 per cent of their juvenile delinquency cases in the same districts."

# WHITE BOYS HAVE RATE THREE TIMES AS HIGH AS RACE

Savannah News  
December 3, 1940

## COUNTY ARRANGES JUVENILE HOUSING

### Board Overrides Opposition and Votes to Use Home Built for Delinquents

By TED POSTON  
(Staff Correspondent)

SAVANNAH, Ga., May 30.—Juvenile delinquency is quite a problem in this city, but more than three times as many white boys as Negro youth are haled into Juvenile Court each year, local records reveal. The figures approximate 900 whites to 300 Negroes a year.

Although more youthful Negro offenders are charged with petty larceny and kindred offenses, and more white youths are brought to court by their parents for discipline, Negro civic leaders are proud of the lower rate in their community.

#### CREDIT GIVEN TO PROBATION OFFICER

Much of the credit for the lower rate is given by these leaders to Frank Callum, managing director of the Savannah Boys club at 330 Price street, and a probation officer in Savannah for more than 21 years.

Mr. Callum, who retired from the probation department on September 30, 1935, to devote his full time to his boy's club, has more than 750 Negro youths enrolled in the organization at present, and his work with these boys is credited with reducing juvenile delinquency in the Negro section.

The clubhouse, occupying three floors and two houses at 330 Price street, is one of the finest of its kind in the South and is open five nights each week for its members. Hours extend from 3 p. m. to 10 p. m. daily.

#### WEAN SCORES FROM LOCAL POOLROOMS

Two new pool tables, game rooms, recreation centers, an outdoor court and separate gymnasium attract the youthful members there nightly for supervised recreation and vocational guidance. Scores have been weaned away from local poolrooms and street corners in this manner.

They are not able to offer voca-

tional training yet," Mr. Callum told The Courier, "but we stress vocational guidance along lines of occupational opportunities in the community."

The clubhouse was made possible in 1929 through an \$11,000 gift from Mrs. Henry W. Hodge, noted white philanthropist for Negro projects, and through public contributions. It is now supported by a regular grant from the local Community Chest.

#### BACKS SEVERAL RACE PROJECTS

Mrs. Hodge, patron of a half dozen Negro projects here, still makes specific gifts to the club. Each Christmas, she spends approximately \$600 in gifts to the boys. She often furnishes shoes and clothing for various members anonymously. Recently she paid a full year's tuition for one of the boys at Johnson C. Smith university.

Other features of the club include a variety of indoor games, a well-stocked library and reading room, a separate reading room and recreation center for girls, boxing and talking pictures.

Frank L. Curley is assistant managing director of the club and five guidance teachers are employed part time. There is also a WPA playground instructor and three NYA clerical workers.

Mr. Callum, one of the first Negroes to study boys' work at Columbia university in New York, is a member of the National Council of Boys Clubs of America, with which the Savannah Boys Club is affiliated. He was succeeded here as probation officer by Thaddeus Eubanks.

Overriding opposition from sponsors of the building and ignoring protests from Juvenile Judge P. O. Holliday, county commissioners voted today to commandeer a brick structure on the Camp Wheeler road as a temporary haven for inmates of the Juvenile home.

The building selected was built with government aid through the efforts of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs of Georgia as a home for delinquent Negro girls but has never been used as such because of the failure of the state to appropriate funds.

The building has been turned over to the state and Gov. E. D. Rivers has consented for its use as a temporary Juvenile home but Judge Holliday pointed out that legislative consent was necessary. The judge warned that an injunction against the building's use might be expected since Negro club women have strenuously opposed the move.

#### OBJECTIONS FILED

Objections were based, Judge Holliday said, on the belief that the next general assembly would refuse to appropriate funds for the proper operation of the building if the county already was using it. Objections were filed by the Negroes after they had consulted prominent Georgians who are members of a committee for the promotion of inter-racial relations, Judge Holliday said.

The judge had been asked by the commissioners to locate quarters for inmates of the county protective home and recommended the purchase of a brick structure at the intersection of Bloomfield and Columbus roads.

Ignoring the recommendation, the commissioners instructed Supt. R. S. Dillard of the home to make preparations for moving into the Camp Wheeler road building so that the Juvenile home may be vacated when army officers supervising the construction of an army encampment at

Smithsonia request it.

#### PROMISE HELP

Members of the board said they would promise the Negro women their assistance in attempting to obtain funds with which to operate a home for delinquent Negro girls and would vacate the building when such funds were available.



# Gift Of State Club Women Idle

## Ga. Charged With Keeping Girls' School a "Secret"

The commission on inter-racial co-operation Monday charged that the \$20,000 home for delinquent colored girls, a debt-free gift to the state in 1937, has stood idle three years because no money has been made available for its operation.

The school, long a dream of the Federated Colored Women's Clubs of the state, was given to the state by these aggressive ladies. It was constructed on a 130-acre tract near Macon by the colored clubs and the Bibb county commission with aid of a WPA grant.

The institution would house 75 young women.

### PROVISIONAL APPROPRIATION

George C. Kennedy, assistant director of the State Department of Public Welfare, said a home for delinquent colored girls was regarded as a "very definite need," but explained the 1937 legislature had made only a provisional appropriation for operating the plant, contingent on the department obtaining funds not appropriated for other purposes. He estimated approximately \$25,000 a year would be required to operate the school on a small scale to care for "from 60 to 75 girls."

Mr. Kennedy revealed that delinquent colored girls now are usually held in jail until arrangements are made to parole them with relatives.

### GRAND JURY CONDEMNATION

The lack of facilities for delinquent colored girls was criticized by the September (1939) grand jury of DeKalb county as an "astounding situation," and a demand was made "that something be done as promptly as possible."

Charging the state had kept the gift "a dark secret from the public," the commission on inter-racial co-operation estimated an expenditure of \$10,000 would be sufficient to put the plant in operation.

## HELP FOR DELINQUENT WHITE GIRLS BUT NOTHING FOR DELIN- QUENT COLORED GIRLS

Somehow the information reached Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the President's wife, that the State of Georgia had made preparation to reclaim delinquent white girls but had made no arrangement to take care of Negro delinquent girls. This information was so shocking to this good woman that she took up the matter with Governor Rivers, who in turn referred her communication to Braswell Dean, head of the Welfare Department of Georgia. Mr. Dean said, there was nothing that the state of Georgia could do to relieve Negro delinquent girls for the reason that the legislature had refused time and again to make an appropriation to take care of the home; and he as head of the Welfare Department of the State partly supported by the Federal Government, the State of Georgia and its counties, had no authority to use relief funds to take care of delinquent Negro girls. That the situation was unfortunate, but he was without means to meet the emergency.

This home was initiated by the Colored Women's Club of Georgia, Bibb County, Georgia in order to secure the home supplemented the

funds raised by the Colored women of the State, and induced WPA to furnish enough money to complete the job. The home was completed at a cost of \$30,000.00; well equipped and made ready for occupancy by the unfortunate Colored girls. The women who held the title to the property deeded it to the State, in fee simple debt free. The State accepted it in 1937 but has refused to appropriate one penny for its care and support. This too, in the face of the fact that the State is taking care of delinquent girls at the taxpayer's expenses. The First Lady of the land was shocked and she was unable to see how a thing like this could happen in any state in the Union; among churches, school houses and other charitable institutions without protest from those who love God and humanity. But this outrage and ungodly situation exists in Georgia and not one white preacher or Negro preacher has opened his mouth in the interest of this noble undertaking.

ATLANTA JOURNAL  
January 22, 1940

## Gift of Home For Girls Kept Secret, Is Charge

A charge that a \$29,000 home for delinquent Negro girls, given the state in 1937, had been kept a "dark secret from the public" and allowed to stand idle for lack of operating funds came Monday from the Commission of Interracial Co-operation.

With a capacity of 75 girls, the institution was built on a 130-acre tract near Macon by the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the Bibb County Commission, aided by a WPA grant.

Instead of being cared for in such a home, delinquent Negro girls were said by George C. Kennedy, assistant state welfare director, usually to be held in jail until paroled with relatives. Older girls are sent to the state prison

farm.

Mr. Kennedy said a home for the delinquents was a "very definite need," but that the 1937 Legislature had provided for operation of the Bibb County plant only if the money could be found outside the regular appropriations.

He estimated 60 to 75 girls could be cared for at the home for approximately \$25,000 a year. The Interracial Commission calculated only \$10,000 would be needed to put the plant in operation.

Lack of such a home was called as "astounding situation" by the September, 1939, DeKalb County grand jury which demanded "something be done as promptly as possible."

## Alleged Torture Victim Remains Under Probation

Quintar South, 16-year-old alleged victim of police torture, was continued on probation in charge of the Child Welfare Society, Wednesday at the time he was scheduled to go on trial for a petty burglary charge.

The case against South was first scheduled for March 13, at which time it was reset to March 27, two days after trial of W. F. Sutherland, indicted and suspended city plainclothes officer, had been slated in U. S. District Court, Judge E. Marvin Underwood presiding.

Sutherland, who was pointed out as the policeman who beat and burned young South to obtain a confession, will probably not go on trial in federal court until June, if Judge Underwood refuses to sustain a demurrer filed by defense attorneys who claim that the court has no jurisdiction in the alleged torture case. Thirty days have been granted attorneys to draw up briefs for study by Judge Underwood.



# GEORGIA REFUSES TO GIVE DELINQUENT NEGRO GIRLS A HELPING HAND

THE repeated failure of the Georgia Legislature, to open the doors of the home for delinquent Negro girls in Bibb County, Georgia, presented to the State, debt free in 1937; provoke every humane person in the state, to ask this question: Does Christian civilization abide in the hearts of the white citizen in Georgia? This is a grave and far reaching question; that ought to appeal to every Christian and humanitarian in the state. There are several homes or places in the state for the relief of delinquent white girls, but no place for Negro delinquents on their way to perdition and depravity. The Legislature having refused year after year, to take cognizance of this sad neglect, the Negro Woman's club of Georgia, took charge of the matter, bought land and built a home in Bibb County, Georgia, at a cost of \$30,000.00; and presented it in fee simple to the State debt free in 1937, and until this day, the Georgia Legislature has not appropriated one penny to open the doors of this home or operate the institution. In spite of the fact that this home was received debt free nearly three years ago its doors stand locked and the premises unused. This story appeared in the daily Constitution some weeks ago, and we are using a part of the story below to illustrate the necessity of the home, and to show the inhumanity and injustice practiced in some of our courts.

## JUST AS AN EXAMPLE.

A brilliant young lawyer told me the other day that he had experienced extreme difficulty in keeping himself guiltless of contempt of court, before a certain judge. Not necessarily in an Atlanta court, you understand. Or it might be. I am just careful. Don't want this column to get me under the jail for contempt. Though I have seen courts, myself, of which words won't express my contempt.

Anyway, this young lawyer had represented a 16-year-old Negro girl charged, before this court with stealing \$6 in goods from a retail store. The lawyer told me he believed the girl innocent. The police had just arrested her because she was in the vicinity at the time of the theft. Didn't even find the goods in her possession.

Now, the day this 16-year-old Negro girl was scheduled for trial, there were some four or six young white men, also arraigned, on various charges involving theft. Cheating a store, passing bad checks, plain theft, etc. And the amounts involved in the white boys' cases ranged from \$40 or \$50 to \$200. One or two of them had been in trouble before.

But every white boy was allowed by the judge, to go free on his promise of restitution of the values stolen. One boy pleaded guilty to a \$150 theft, promised to pay back at the rate of \$5 a week.

Then came the trial of the little Negro girl. She told her story and said she was innocent. But the court found her guilty. Still declaring her innocence she offered, nevertheless, to make good the \$6 involved.

But the court said no to her offer. Sentenced her to 12 months in prison. And that was that.

Do you wonder my young lawyer friend was outraged? But what are you going to do about it?

## MAYBE SHE WAS GUILTY.

I'm not saying the Negro girl was innocent of the charge. Maybe she was and maybe she wasn't. But I do say society, represented by that court, perpetrated an injustice, a raw deal, against her. Particularly when compared to the leniency meted to the white boys tried ahead of her.

Maybe that Negro girl hasn't had a good background, all her life.

Well, there's an institution, locked up and empty, that could, perhaps, remedy the background failure and undo the injustice, for her and 74 others like her, if the state would permit.—Atlanta Constitution.

This is an awful story to go to the world, that after the Colored women of Georgia prepared, paid for and presented to the state a \$30,000.00 home, debt free to reform delinquent Negro girls, the state refuses to appropriate a penny to support the institution, in spite of the fact that it has made ample preparations to take care and reclaim delinquent white girls. Could a crime like this, committed in the name of justice happen in a country, where Christianity prevails or humanity has an appeal? Obviously no. A poor Negro child accused of stealing \$6.00, a few days ago, was committed to the pen among hard criminals for twelve months, in spite of her offer to make good the misplaced money, and at the same time pleading her innocence. This unreasonable sentence followed the crimes of three white boys, who had records of crime and had been in trouble before. These boys were charged with passing bad checks and cheating and swindling. Plain theft, the amounts the boys had stolen ranged from \$50.00 to \$200.00. One of the boys plead guilty to stealing \$150.00; the judge permitted him to go upon his promise to pay back the sum at \$5.00 a week without bond or restriction. The judge let the other two boys go free upon their promise to return the stolen goods. This same judge refused the little Negro girl's offer to pay back that which she did not steal and sent her to prison for one year. This judge reminds us of the judge, who hundreds of years ago, sentenced a young woman to be hanged for a murder he committed because the girl would not love him. But some men have strange hearts. Very little difference from the heart of a beast. But some strange things can happen in Christian civilization, and yet the men, who commits these crimes against God, humanity and their country, blate loudest about democracy, Christian democracy.

Is there a state in the Union, except Georgia, that would accept a \$30,000.00 home in fee simple, debt free, dedicated to the uplift of delinquent girls, and then refuse to open its door, and operate it for the rescue of fallen women, because the women are Colored? Could Germany or Russia commit a greater crime against God, humanity and mankind? Could this criminal neglect happen anywhere in the world except in Georgia? Where are the Christian churches in the state, while wicked politicians are preparing this unpardonable sin, against the good people of our common wealth? Is there any crime against womanhood, deeper and more damaging to the good name of our great state? The answer is no.

Union-Review.



# **AIM TO PUT CURB ON DELINQUENCY IN SOUTH AREA**

## **Chicago Urban League Is Active in Plans.**

A Citizens' committee made up of representatives from south side organizations has been formed to attempt to curb the increase of juvenile delinquency in the south central district, according to A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Chicago Urban League, one of the committee's sponsors. The committee, which is headed by Mrs. Evelyn Evans, 4932 St. Lawrence avenue, is seeking 50,000 signatures to a petition demanding stricter law enforcement in the district.

Backing the committee is the Chicago Council of Negro Organizations headed by Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines and including 70 member organizations; the Chicago Law Enforcement commission, headed by the Rev. William H. Griffin; the Chicago Council of clubs, headed by Mrs. Evans; various ministers' alliances and various P.T. organizations.

### **Hoodlums Roam District.**

Mr. Foster pointed out that the appearance of small gangs of hoodlums in the district committing acts of vandalism and robbery began two years ago, and that previously, despite poor housing conditions, unemployment and lack of recreational facilities, the district boasted a small percentage of juvenile delinquency. He said community leaders were agreed that the chief factor in the present situation was the lack of law enforcement with special reference to gambling and the sale of liquor and narcotics to minors.

The south central district is bounded by 26th and 63d streets and Cottage Grove and Wentworth avenues. The educational committee of the recently organized law enforcement commission is headed by the Rev. H. N. Marbly, pastor of St. Matthew's Episcopal church, 350 West Oak street. The Rev. William Griffin, pastor of the Grant Memorial A. M. E. church, is chairman of the commission, which was organized last year following a conference with Judge John J. Sonstebly and other judges, together with representatives of the mayor's office, the police department and representatives of all

important business and civic organizations in the city.

### **Seeks New Members.**

The petition, drawn up by the commission, is addressed to Gov. Horner, State's Attorney Courtney, Mayor Kelly and the United States District court, according to Frayser T. Lane, secretary of the educational committee.

Preparing to launch its annual drive for memberships, the Urban League has reappointed Patrick B. Prescott Jr., attorney, chairman of the campaign committee. Mr. Prescott is a member of the board of directors of the league.

# The Erring Boy

NOV 17 1940

IT sometimes becomes imperative to use facts and figures to illustrate unpleasant situations existing in our neighborhood that leaders may see the wisdom of making an effort to correct the evil. This is true in the case of the ever increasing problem of juvenile delinquency on the South Side.

Crime among colored boys has reached such proportions that it is necessary that constructive steps be taken at once to curtail it. According to Chief Justice John J. Sonstebj of the Municipal Court, who has a deep interest in the reduction of crime among boys, 25% of the crime among boys in the city is committed by Negro boys. That is a high percentage in view of the fact that we represent less than 10% of the population.

It is also interesting to note that there are not enough agencies for the proper supervision of Negro boys accused of crime. Ordinarily when a white boy has committed some petty offense he is turned over to some agency for supervision. He reports so often to this agency for a certain period of time and is dismissed without a criminal record. In the case of most Negro boys who commit similar crimes they do not have the privilege of being supervised by any agency and, therefore, are either convicted or are sent back to again prey upon society without any supervision whatsoever.

*Chicago Bee*  
A criminal record is a very bad thing to hang over a boy's head for life. It prevents him from taking a city, state or federal civil service position. It keeps him out of the army. It brands him a criminal and distorts his mind toward further acts inimical to society. It is easy to understand why a greater proportion of Negro boys may have records than white. If there is no agency to supervise a boy he often gets a record upon conviction.

The Colored Big Brothers organization has tried hard for years to aid the failing boy. The program of the Big Brothers is curtailed by the lack of funds that the colored people refuse to donate.

*Chicago, Ill.*  
The fight to save the delinquent boy is everybody's fight. It behooves all of us to conscientiously study the situation to the end that we may return to society the erring boy.



# REVEAL BOYS, EX-CONVICTS IN SAME PRISONS

## Youthful Delinquents Are Exposed To Influence Of Tough Felons

BATON ROUGE, La.— House bill No. 84, asking for an appropriation of \$150,000 from the general fund for the construction of a state industrial school for Negro youths was introduced in the state legislature this week by Representative Jennings. The passage of this measure will check the sending to the state penitentiary of youngsters guilty of capital offenses.

Only last year 12-year-old Walter Williams was sentenced to serve life in Angola for the murder of a white boy. When efforts were made to block the sending of the boy to the haven of hardened criminals, persons were told that it was the only course to take since the state did not provide a penal institution for Negro youths.

Consistent efforts on the part of white and Negro organizations to have something done about this case aroused sentiment that led to the introduction of this bill. One of the most tireless workers in this direction was David McNeal, New Orleans attorney, who was recently appointed to a position on the state labor commission.

During the regime of the late Huey Long, a similar bill passed the legislature but no provision was made for appropriation of funds. Representative Jennings included in his bill the building of the institution, its support and specified from what source funds would come.

His office is being flooded with expressions of appreciation and gratitude from both white and Negro persons throughout the state.

**TWO LOCAL APPOINTMENTS**

The need for an additional probation officer at Roxbury Court was suggested no doubt by the large number of juvenile delinquency cases which come before that court. Last fall the situation became so alarming that Judge Miles called a meeting of the Roxbury clergymen for a frank discussion of the problem. Since then he has addressed local church groups in continuing his campaign to check the spread of lack of home and religious training which was blamed for the high rate of crime among young people. The clergy was urged to help in directing the exuberance of youth into wholesome recreation that would keep boys and girls "from hanging around corners and getting into trouble." Effective measures to prevent transgression by young folks would of course be far preferable to the task of rehabilitating the youngsters and keeping them in the normal path after they had run afoul of the law. The supervision of the youthful offenders is the main duty of the probation officer.

The appointment of Captain Harry S. Lofton to the new position of probation officer is an excellent selection. As court officer he is credited with having performed his duties faithfully and in a dignified and courteous manner. There is ample reason to be confident that he will acquit himself equally well in his new role.

His successor as court officer, Mr. Herbert O. Clarke, appointed this week by Judge Miles, is well qualified for the position by training and character, and is sure to give a good account of himself. Colored citizens can justly be proud of both appointments.



Jackson, Miss., Daily Clarion Ledger  
April 14, 1940

## AID TO NEGRO YOUTH ASKED

An appeal to the Mississippi legislature to "at least pass an enabling act at this session" to set up an institution in the interest of the delinquent and incorrigible negro youth of the state was made by the Mississippi Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

The letter signed by the wife of J. E. Johnson of Prentiss, president, follows:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the legislature—on behalf of the negro women of Mississippi, I send you this last appeal with a suggestion in the interest of the delinquent and incorrigible youth of our race.

"I am sure you are with us when it comes to the need of the institution. The thing that may stand in the way is the lack of money. May I suggest that you at least pass an enabling act at this session? This would be a fine step toward securing the much needed reform agency. The governor would appoint a committee with authority to receive bids for location, including donations in money, materials, and etc. Then two years from now we hope to be able to begin the operation.

"This is a mere suggestion. It is made because of our eagerness to see something done for the cause."

Yazoo City, Miss. Herald  
June 18, 1940

## DELINQUENT NEGRO YOUTH PROBLEM

Recent legislative action in Mississippi, although marked for the most part by petty bickerings and little worth-while legislation, passed at least one bill worthy of notice—the one designed to establish an industrial school for negro youths. Introduced by Senator Mitchell Robinson of Hinds County, it was one of the last bills passed by the legislature.

A few weeks ago, when faced with the prospect of having to send three negro boys to the county penal farm, Chief of Police K. P. Parks, Sr., remarked that he "had wished to high heaven for the past twenty years there was some place to send those boys besides the county farm." But there just wasn't any other place to send them. The laws of the state read so and so, and the chief of police and mayor must act accordingly.

For the past 75 years, Mississippi has sent

delinquent negro youths to prison by the side of hardened criminals, teaching them nothing and letting them absorb whatever happened their way. Properly handled, the new institution can do its bit toward bettering social conditions in the state.

# GROUP VIEWS PLIGHT OF FIRST OFFENDERS

That youthful Negro first offenders never get a chance and that they are sent to prison to come out hardened criminals was the main theme of a meeting last Thursday night by Phillip Heimlich of the Jewish Board of Guardians who addressed a meeting of Harlemites at the Harlem Branch Y. M. C. A. on the subject of Negro First Offenders.

The meeting was called by a group of responsible citizens to delve into the serious problems of Negro first offenders, a problem, it was brought out, which has become a menace to the city. Last Monday night a committee consisting of Dr. Anna Johnson, Assemblyman Daniel Burrows, Mr. Heimlich, George Meers and Benjamin F. McLaurin met at 209 W. 125th St., to map out a program to cope with the problem. The committee plans to enlist all groups in the community in the social necessity of saving the first offender from prison.

Mr. Heimlich pointed out in his talk at the Y.M.C.A. that 85 per cent of the Negro first offenders can be saved for society, that is, never commit a crime again, if they are rescued from prison by some organization that will be responsible for them. He said that he based his assertion on actual statistics gleaned from his 20 years work with the Jewish Board of Guardians. Less than 20 years ago, Mr. Heimlich said, 20 per cent of the prison population in the state was Jewish. Now it is 9 per cent.

It was also brought out at the meeting that in all state prisons the daily prison population is broken down into the number of white and Negro prisoners. It was pointed out that such practice unnecessarily plays up the race angle in prison, something which is detrimental to good prison administration.

## LAUNCHES PLAN TO HELP YOUTH

Young Defenders Will Get  
"Break" Under New Program in Force Here

Youthful offenders, between the ages of 16 and 18 inclusive, will receive special consideration in the Court of General Sessions under a new plan worked out by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey and the nine judges of the Court, it was announced this week.

The plan, which was formulated to rehabilitate youthful offenders not named in felony indictments involving crimes of violence will not be given State prison terms or placed in the company of hardened criminals, but put on probation as wayward minors. All cases involving minors will be called and heard in the judges' chambers and names will not be made public.

"This plan," Mr. Dewey said, "has been worked out by the judges and Assistant District Attorneys Milton Schilback and Eunice Hunton Carter with the active cooperation of Irving W. Halpern, chief probation officer, and Edward T. Tighe, of the Voluntary Defenders of the Legal Aid Society.

"In cases where it appears to be to the best interest of the youth and the community, a complaint will be filed against him as a wayward minor. The Court will then conduct a hearing in chambers in accordance with the law," Mr. Dewey said. The new plan is said to be the first of its kind in the United States.

AIDS YOUTH



Assistant District Attorney Eunice Hunton Carter who, with other members of the District Attorney's staff, probation officers, judges of General Sessions and Legal Aid Society lawyers, prepared the plan to help minors accused of crime.



Raleigh N. C., News & Observer  
February 16, 1940

## NEGRO TRUANCY REDUCED BY HALF

### Probation Officer Estimates Unexcused Absences Cut from 300 to 150

Truancy among Negro school children has been cut in half, from about 300 absences to approximately 150, Probation Officer Lewyn Hayes estimated yesterday.

Following last week's round-up of 100 Negro boys and girls, Hayes said that school officials had reported a "decided improvement in the situation."

"We haven't had to have any parents up in juvenile court to discuss the matter, but we're going to have some there next Thursday," he stated. "After all that publicity, a lot of parents were scared into sending their children back to school."

Hayes said his investigation had disclosed several bona fide instances where parents objected to sending their children to school because of lack of proper clothing.

Such instances, School Superintendent Claude F. Gaddy stated, can usually be remedied by donations from welfare agencies.

Reporting on his personal visits to the homes of truant pupils, Gaddy said he had concluded that "indifference" on the part of parents was responsible for most truancy.

"There's not much to that excuse about not enough clothing. Charity agencies will provide."

Earl Smith, probation officer for white boys, said last night that all 20 truants who came under his study last week had been returned to school without recourse of juvenile court.

## Shortage of Institutions For Bad Youths

RALEIGH, N. C.—At least one group of state institutions in North Carolina has no waiting list for admissions. There are 100 to 125 vacancies for white boys and girls in the state training schools for white delinquents. The same condition is true at all the white correctional institutions.

"Unfortunately no facilities are available for delinquent Negro girls and the school for delinquent Negro boys is too small and has too limited maintenance appropriation to meet the existing needs," W. C. Ezell, welfare official said.

# OUR WOMEN SPEAK!

## *Union 7-11-40* **Will Oppose Bricker!** *Cincinnati, Ohio*

### **Republican Candidate for Governor if the Deplorable Situation at Delaware is Not Remedied Immediately!**

Canton, O.—Our State Federation of Womens' clubs, in session here, last week, are again putting it up to Gov. John W. Bricker—to order better conditions for our girls at the Ohio Girls Industrial School at Delaware.

More than a year ago, its Special Investigating Committee, headed by Jane E. Hunter of the Phyllis Wheatley Association of Cleveland, went to Delaware and found the sad conditions in which the great state of Ohio had thrust them. When a candidate for Governor in 1936 and later in 1938, Bricker made the Committee definite promises to improve the miserable conditions referred to, but as usual where our people are concerned, failed to keep his promise. Judge Henry J. Robinson of Ravenna, chief of the Division of Public Assistance of the State Welfare Department, appeared before the convention, last week, and promised to take up the matter with the Governor, requesting "immediate investigation", which, of course, would be strung over until after election in November. This caused many delegates to decide to take the matter before our people of the state in this fall's campaign, if they are not remedied, immediately!

Mrs. Lula O. McClure of Cincinnati, president of the organization, presided. Sessions were held in St. Paul AME church, June 23-24-25-26. Its daily programs were open to the public and were very interesting, but the outstanding feature of the meeting was its consideration of the deplorable conditions existing at the Delaware State School for Girls. Other members of the Special Investigating Committee are: Catherine Willis,

Gertrude Brown, Janie L. Renfro, Sophia Gannett, Maude Goode and Margaret Barnes of Oberlin, former president of the Federation. All of its officers were re-elected for the ensuing year with the exception of first vice-president, Mrs. Mary A. Exum of Youngstown, who was elected to a six-year trusteeship. Miss Hunter was unanimously elected first vice-president.

Other officers are: Gertrude Crews of Columbus, second; Mary T. Gates of Cleveland, financial secretary; Anna C. Turnell of Cincinnati, corresponding secretary; Irene White of Steubenville, treasurer; Clara Taylor, of Perryville, chaplain; Leona C. Taylor of Dayton, parliamentarian; Coralie B. Taylor of Cincinnati, statistician; and Mrs. Charles McGinnis of Wilberforce, auditor. — Cleveland Gazette.



Columbia S. C. State

**OUR ERRING YOUNGSTERS—AND  
WHERE AND HOW THEY ARE  
HOUSED.**

Cases of juvenile delinquency in Columbia to the number of 1,860 during the six years 1933-8 inclusive have been "spotted" on a map of the city, as part of a continuing study by the children's committee of the Council of Social Agencies.

Three blocks have 30 or more delinquents; 11 blocks 20 to 30; 30 blocks 10 to 20; 41 blocks 6 to 10; 85 blocks at least one delinquent each year. (A delinquent, as the word is used in this study, is a juvenile who has been brought before the juvenile court. There were of course some "repeaters.") This preliminary report draws no implications, only presents the statistical facts.

Boys' cases accounted for 87 per cent. of the total dealt with, or 13 boys to two girls. Fifty-six per cent. of all the children brought to court were Negroes. While there were one-fourth again as many Negro boys as white boys, the number of white girls exceeded that of Negro girls by seven. Sex and race distribution was practically the same through each of the six years. Sixty-three per cent. of the children were in the 12-13-14-15 years age group. "Very little variation is seen from year to year in the charges made against children. . . . Thirty-nine per cent. were charged with petit larceny; . . . 21 per cent. with disorderly conduct; . . . less than 0.5 per cent. with sexual offenses."

Here is the six years' record as to "repeaters," or recidivists: 178 children appeared twice, 71 three times, 28 four times, 17 five times; five Negro males appeared six times; one Negro male and one white male seven times; one Negro male eight times; one Negro male nine times; one Negro male 11 times and one Negro male 12 times.

Just what the correlation is between the per-block rate of juvenile delinquency and the type of housing a given block affords nobody precisely knows. But commonsense suggests, and studies in many cities confirm, that such correlation exists. Nobody would say that bad

housing of itself is the sole cause of high juvenile delinquency. "The destruction of the poor is their poverty," as we are reminded in Proverbs; and many phases of poverty other than bad housing contribute to juvenile delinquency. Yet no citizen who knows his Columbia can look at the map showing where juvenile delinquency here is most rife without being reminded that the housing conditions

existing in those localities, to say the least, are not conducive to "the good life." Some of them are in startling proximity to "centers of light and leading." Much of the housing which more or less shelters many families today could not be constructed under any decent municipal code. A minimum hope is that no new construction of this sort shall be allowed.

This survey has been made with the idea that it would "reveal many definite needs" toward which the committee "could direct its energies." The possibility was contemplated "of discovering additional resources and facilities needed to make living in Columbia more successful for her boys and girls." Mrs. John Swearingen is chairman of the committee, which has for technical adviser Miss Leila Johnson of the University of South Carolina. Recorder Heyward Brockinton, as judge of the juvenile court, has shown himself understanding and sagacious in his handling of young delinquents and has given the committee cordial co-operation. **Columbia, S. C. State**

June 2, 1940

## Juvenile Court Considers 30 Cases During Month of May

Thirty cases were brought to the attention of the juvenile department of the municipal court during May, according to the monthly report completed yesterday by the court's clerk, A. C. Fitts.

Judge Heyward Brockinton considered the various cases brought to the attention of the court.

Boys and girls whose cases were brought to court for correction included nine white boys, one white girl, 15 Negro boys and five Negro girls.

Charges included the following: Truancy, four white boys and one Negro boy; disorderly conduct, one white girl and four Negro boys; incorrigible, one white boy and one Negro boy; loafing and loitering, two

Negro boys; dependants, one Negro boy and four Negro girls; assault and battery, one Negro girl, petty larceny four white boys and four Negro girls, and miscellaneous charges, two Negro boys.

A white boy was committed to an orphanage and two Negro boys were committed to the reformatory. The other cases resulted in the placing of seven white boys, eight Negro boys and a Negro girl on probation. Seven cases were dismissed. Several others were transferred to the department of public welfare.

Visits made during the month by the chief probation officer, Mrs. Marion P. Kramer, were to five white boys, two white girls, nine Negro boys and two Negro girls.



March 17, 1940

# Cleveland Police Helping Youth By Sponsoring Their Recreation

## Underprivileged Boys, Girls Taken From the Streets by Play Projects — Chief Trotter Says Delinquency Cut 80 Per Cent.

Special to The C

CLEVELAND, Tenn., March 16.— Chief of Police A. M. Trotter stood in Shepard's hall, in the heart of Cleveland's Negro section. The hall, cleared of the usual seats and benches, rang with shouts and laughter, and with the sound of running and scuffling feet. Dark-skinned boys, with shining white teeth and bright eyes, rushed here and there while dark-skinned hands stretched upward for the basket ball that shot to and fro. From time to time, above the din, the shrill blast of the referee's whistle could be heard.

It wasn't much basket ball. Its hide was scuffed and worn, and its slightly one-sided shape from much use gave it an uncertain course as it whizzed through the air. It evidently had seen better days. But it didn't matter to the players. They passed and shot, shouted, ran and jumped.

On a bench on the sideline a group of wriggling, bouncing girls spurred the plays on with their shrill screams. One of them held a small alarm clock, the purple color of which betrayed it as having at some time occupied someone's dressing table. Its holder consulted it from time to time, called time out at the quarters, and while the players rested kept them posted on the score.

Up on a platform behind the far goal at the rear of the hall kinky heads, their owners gathered around an indoor tennis table, swung back and forth in unison as their eyes followed the little celluloid ball being batted back and forth between the two players.

Around the big stove in one corner of the hall stood a group of colored men. Their well-kept clothes and generally neat appearance indicated they were professional and businessmen.

A young Negro boy came up. He was McKinley Jarrett, a high school student who helped look after the project after school hours. He reported to the chief that things were going all right, although he had been compelled to ask one boy to leave, he said, because the boy was smoking in the building and cursing.

Shepard's hall is the latest development of the Cleveland police department's pet projects in welfare work among the underprivileged boys and girls of the city, Chief Trotter explained. He is enthusiastic over the success of the project.

"You know," said the chief, "if you can keep them off the street and busy, you can keep them out of mischief and trouble. And if you can keep them out of trouble you won't have them in the police courts and before the juvenile judge."

And there is the secret. The "kids" on the corner who quietly make themselves scarce when the policeman comes ambling along on his beat are gone. And gone are the days when mother or daddy can quiet the little fellow with: "If you don't go to sleep, I'll have the policeman get you."

For the little fellow would probably grin from his pillow and answer: "Huh! You can't kid me. The policeman is the best friend I've got." The policeman is no longer the little fellow's "boogerman" in Cleveland.

Working on his theory, "Keep the kid off the street and busy and you keep him out of the police court," Chief Trotter and his police force, backed by the South Cleveland Community center, sponsored two of the ten softball teams among the underprivileged young people in that part of the city last summer.

And at the close of the softball season the police department sponsored midget football teams, and held the nation's first midget "milk bowl" game on the Bradley High school's football field. Around \$200 was taken in at the gate, Chief Trotter said, \$100 of which went to pay for the football equipment for the two teams.

The balance, he said, was applied on softball indebtedness.

On these teams, Chief Trotter said, were twelve delinquent boys, paroled by the city court.

"And of the twelve," said the chief, "not one has violated his parole."

The chief of police said since the police department has been working among the underprivileged young people, juvenile delinquency in Cleveland has been reduced approximately 80 per cent.

"When they play on our teams," he said, "no profanity is permitted, and each player is required to attend Sunday school. And they enjoy it, and are making good."

The police department is branching out this year. The Cleveland city commission rented Shepard's hall, owned by a Negro druggist, in the Third district, for certain hours after school during the week and the work among the Negro youth of that section is flourishing.

Plans are under way for an "amateur hour" imitation radio broadcast on the night of March 29. The entertainment will consist of music, singing, tap and buck-and-wing dancing, and a performance by a prominent East Tennessee radio team, the music to be furnished by the police department.

Proceeds from the entertainment will go toward the support of the Shepard hall project.

Chief Trotter says this year, in addition to the work among the colored youth of the city, the police department plans to sponsor a softball team in South Cleveland, and an additional one in East Cleveland. He says a Cleveland business house also plans to sponsor one this year.

The chief says he has been in touch with the chiefs of police in Chattanooga and Etowah, and Dalton, Ga., and they inform him they think it will be possible for them to sponsor teams in their respective cities. Chief Trotter says he hopes to form a league of six teams of underprivileged boys from 8 to 12 years of age this summer.

Chief Trotter says the WPA has been furnishing a paid worker at the South Cleveland community welfare center, and he hopes that a conference with Miss Lillie Summers, district supervisor of the WPA recreation division of Chattanooga, will result in placing a paid colored worker at Shepard's hall.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press  
April 7, 1940

## Negroes Laud Juvenile Home Facilities For Care Of Delinquents Praised

A group of negro newspaper reporters visited several projects for their race during the week-end.

They were impressed by the beauty and arrangement of the juvenile detention home in the Piney Grove section here where delinquents of the negro racial group occupy two of the buildings of the institution.

It was pointed out that it was more attractively arranged than

those to be found in cities much larger than Johnson City. Much of the credit for the modern arrangement is given to Juvenile Judge Ann Parsons and her associates in the work.

The board asks the cooperation of the colored citizens in this movement. Rev. A. L. Bratcher is chairman, and Rev. J. W. Smith is secretary.

In one unit of the institution the colored girls have their quarters on the same floor where the caretaker and his wife live. On the ground floor of this building one will find a well equipped kitchen and dining room with the exception of running water and sink, which are very much needed. An organ and a radio are in these quarters. The boys live in a separate building formerly used as the kitchen and dining room. It was noted that the entire place was very clean. Even the walls and ceilings appeared to have been newly painted. The bed clothing was spotlessly clean, but it was brought out in a conversation with Will Forster, caretaker, that the home is badly in need of extra bedding and mattresses. There were a sufficient number of beds and chairs to accommodate the average population at the home.

The authorities made a forward step in having six acres of the ground plowed to be used for truck gardening. Judge Parsons said that it is the intention of the officials to make the institution as near self-supporting as humanly possible. Incidentally the caretaker is an expert gardener. On the grounds are plenty of fruit trees and a fine grade arbor.

Aside from toilet articles and clothing for boys and girls, the home needs a shower or tub bath. Seth L. Ryan and A. L. Owens.

Jackson, Tenn. Sub  
June 9, 1940

## COLORED BOARD IN CHARGE OF YOUTHS

The board of curators for the delinquent colored youth met in the Harden Auditorium Friday morning at which time reports were given on the delinquent youths who had been placed in their care and custody by the Juvenile Court of Madison county.

All of the youths were present except one and the reports given in were favorable with the exception of two, so much so that several of the delinquent youth will be recommended to the Juvenile Judge for final discharge.

Rev. J. R. Reid, pastor of Bethel A. M. E. Church, addressed the body and encouraged the boys to hold up their heads and try to be somebody.

It is the desire of the board to



## THE GOVERNOR'S TWO ROADS

The Cooper administration is firmly in the saddle for two more years. The Governor, in fact, conducted a remarkable campaign. Rarely has any officeholder felt more confident of his own record, or shown less fear of an opposition. In the party primary race, he did little more than issue a booklet describing and defending his two years in office. In the general election he delivered two or three dignified addresses before Election Day. Whereas President Roosevelt felt it needful to take the stump, Mr. Cooper was so confident of his popularity that he was willing to let his record speak for itself.

Of course, there is a less attractive side to this picture. The Cooper administration is one of the few which has kept on good terms with the city machine of Memphis. Mr. Crump is more respectable as a political boss than a Hague or a Kelly. He places an emphasis on capable officeholders; he does not tolerate an incompetent man in public office simply because of his loyalty. That puts the whole machine on a higher plane than is usual in American politics. But we have machine government for all that.

This dual nature of Mr. Cooper's triumph places a choice of roads before him in these next two years. He can continue merely to keep on good terms with Mr. Crump; and since the Governor's opposition is negligible, he can give us his usual honest administration and hold his faction together by failing to make anybody angry. Then somebody else on his side of the fence will succeed him; he will go down to posterity as an executive who had very little trouble.

Or Mr. Cooper can regard his election as a green light to go ahead to a notable administration. No vote is scheduled in the near future to force him along such a path. So, on his own motion he can make of himself a genuine leader. It is an opportunity that lies before few State governors.

There is hope of this trend of affairs in Mr. Cooper's second term because the Governor did in fact make a few gestures in that direction during his first term in office. This refers particularly to his impulses toward penal reform. In view of the chain-gang stories that have dotted its past history, the South could and would take a pride in a governor who was making a record in the field of penal reform.

Governor Cooper started out well, but he has, in several instances, apparently failed to carry through. He began by taking a special interest in the food at all State institutions, which is one of the foundations of good behavior. But if any great improvements have been made in that regard, nobody heard about them. He was going to order all superintendents to have the same menu for their tables as that served inmates of the institutions—an excellent reform. But if the official order was ever issued, it was not published.

The Governor did make a good appointment to the wardenship of the penitentiary. In spite of adverse criticism, Mr. Tom Gore has persisted in a certain amount of rehabilitation work among prisoners. Then the Governor was going to hold "courts of mercy" wherein convicts who were too poor to hire lawyers to work on a parole could talk personally to the chief executive of the State. This was a fine impulse, toward mercy and humanity, but after one court session, there has come no word of other sessions.

Andrew Tipton Taylor, commissioner of institutions, did put student self-government in the State reformatory for white boys. It was a splendid beginning toward remedying the faults in our reform system pointed out so frankly and alarmingly in a report issued by the

Osborne Foundation. But it was only a beginning; and as far as the public knows, there it has stayed. By this time, under proper guidance, that sort of system ought to be attracting the attention of welfare students all over the federal Union. That it has not created general interest might be taken as one indi-

cation that it was neither pushed nor developed. It is to be hoped that this is not true.

According to the report of the Osborne Foundation, the reformatory for Negro boys at Pikeville was in a more distressing condition than any other penal institution in the State. Governor Cooper made a visit to this school last year. He installed a few radio attachments for the amusement of the boys. As a gesture, that was friendly; as a remedy it was futile. The Osborne report stated the place was "poorly suited to human habitation, to say nothing of its use as a place for a children's training school." Further, the report added that "dilapidated old dormitories represent a serious threat to life in the total absence of fire-fighting equipment." If that be true today, radio attachments hardly meet the need at Pikeville.

Mr. Cooper has ahead of him a big building program for penal institutions. But without his courts of mercy, and his student self-government; without attacks upon other evils in our State system, new buildings alone will not suffice.

The Governor has shown that, when acting upon his own deepest impulses, he is able to inaugurate in penal institutions reforms that might make his administration notable. But he has not seemed to follow through. This is the opportunity that stretches out before him in 1941 and 1942.